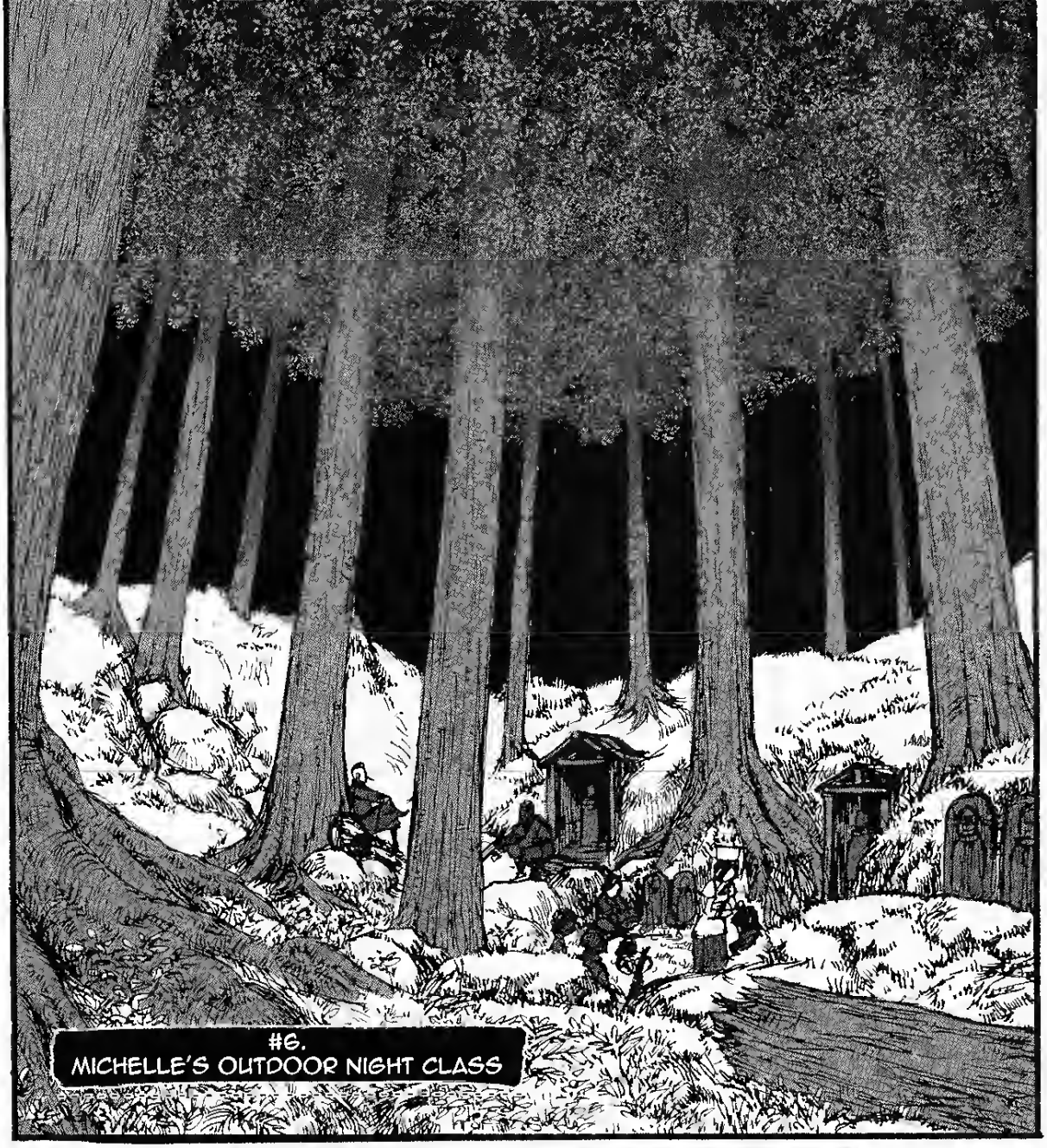
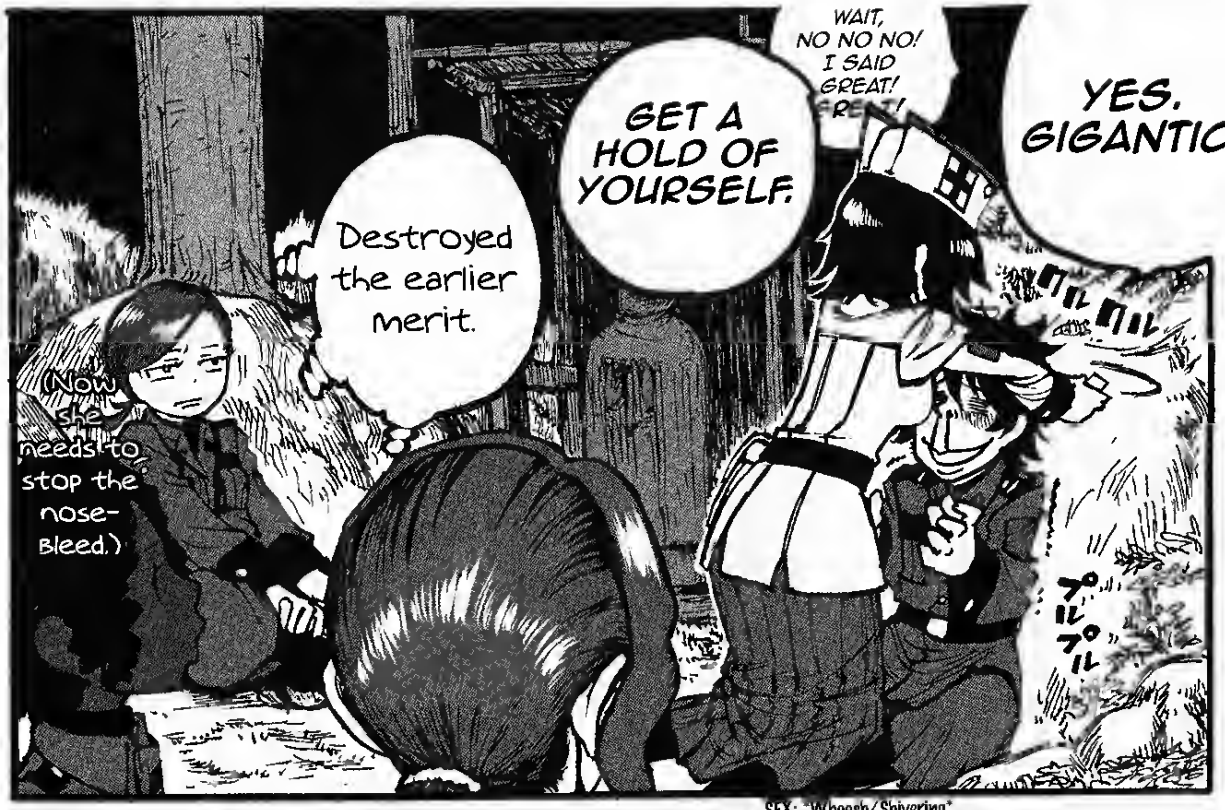
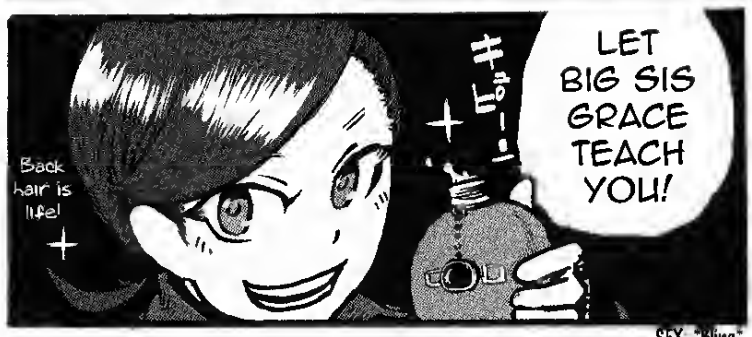

#6.
MICHELLE'S OUTDOOR NIGHT CLASS

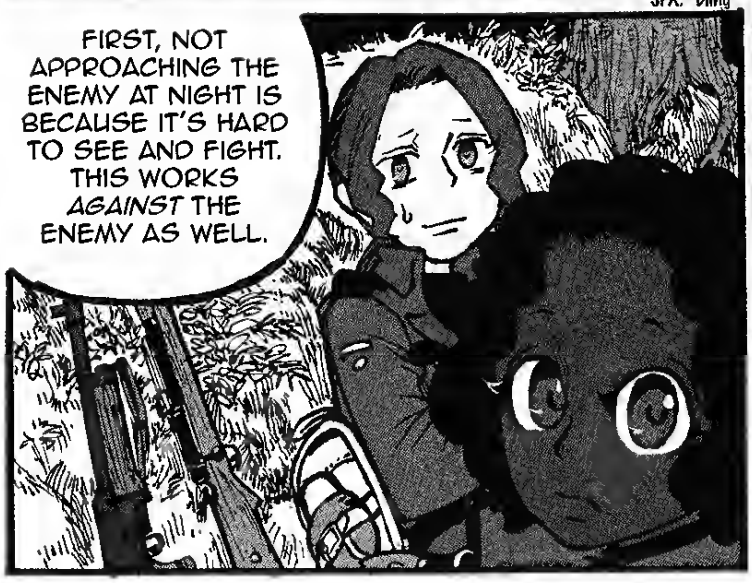
THIS WOUND WILL HEAL ITSELF IN A FEW DAYS. YOU'RE VERY LUCKY SUBAHAN.
THOUGH IT LOOKS LIKE A LOT OF BLOOD, YOUR ACTUAL WOUND ISN'T THAT BIG.


YES. GIGANTIC.
WAIT, NO NO NO! I SAID GREAT!
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF.
Destroyed the earlier merit.
(Now she needs to stop the nose-bleed.)
プルプル

SFX: "Whoosh/Shivering"



SFX: "Bling"



AND THIS PLACE IS GOOD FOR RESTING AND REVIEWING OUR EARLIER ACTION.
AND FOR CAUTION, WE LET KATSUYA AND BATARI START A FIRE AWAY FROM US AS BAIT. THEY ARE JUST LIKE DISPOSABLE PAWNS!
WE'RE JUST PAWNS, RIGHT?
DON'T THINK ABOUT IT. IF YOU DO, YOU'RE BOUND TO LOSE.
SFX: *Waving*
REVIEW...
SFX: *Tap, Tap*

RUTZEN.
BUT WE'RE NOT THE ARMY, SO WE'LL LET YOU OFF WITH A WARNING.
BECAUSE OF YOUR FIRING WITHOUT ORDERS, WE STARTED BATTLE IN AN UNFAVOURABLE POSITION AND WE NEARLY *LOST* SUBAHAN.
FIRING WITHOUT PERMISSION FOR ANY REASON, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT LED TO BATTLE, IS GROUNDS FOR DISMISSAL IN THE ARMY.
...
THERE ***WON'T*** BE A NEXT TIME.

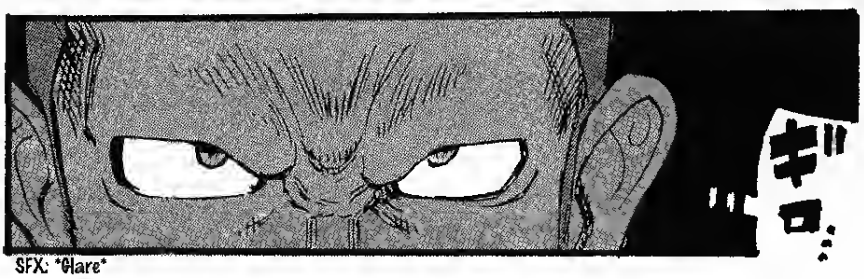
ACTS LIKE TODAY'S SHOOTING ARE *ESPECIALLY PROHIBITED.* BEFORE FIRING, *ABSOLUTELY DON'T* PUT YOUR FINGER ON THE TRIGGER. THE INSTRUCTOR TAUGHT YOU THAT, RIGHT?
OUR PATROL MILITIA IS MADE OF FULLY ARMED SOLDIERS, WE *ABSOLUTELY* PROHIBIT INDEPENDENT ACTS.
HEY, ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING?!
Hmmph..
ONLY IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS, SUCH AS THE ENEMY POINTING THEIR GUN TOWARDS A FRIENDLY, ONLY THEN ARE YOU ALLOWED TO FIRE AT WILL.
Haaah
NOT ONLY BECAUSE YOU COULD MISS, BUT ALSO BECAUSE YOU'LL ALERT THE ENEMY OF YOUR POSITION, SO NOTIFY YOUR ALLIES BEFORE YOU FIRE...

けっ
IF IT'S JUST PULLING A TRIGGER, THEN ANYONE CAN DO IT.
BUT YOU'VE BECOME A TRAINED EXPERT. EVEN IF IT'S JUST THREE DAYS, IT'S MORE THAN THE AVERAGE PERSON.

SFX: *Soft laugh*

YOU STARTED WAVING A STICK IN A LOT OF VIOLENT CRIMES IN YOUR TEENS, RIGHT? DON'T YOU WANT TO DISPLAY SOME PROFESSIONALISM, TO TELL THE WORLD THERE'S MORE TO YOU?

THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT ANYONE CAN DO AND WHAT AN EXPERT CAN DO... THE ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION AND *NOT* BEING ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION. KEEP THAT IN MIND.



SFX: *Glare*

GET INTO IT. GOT IT?
...
AS FOR YOU.
HOHO!
...
OHMM...

BECAUSE OF YOU DELAYING THE ENTIRE SQUAD, WE ALMOST LOST SOMEONE. DO YOU *REALLY* WANT TO WORK THIS JOB?
YOU? BECAUSE OF A PREJUDICED VIEWPOINT?
WHEN SOMETHING GOES WRONG, YOU PUSH YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES ONTO *ME!*
I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU...

...WHY DOES MR. NIKOLAI HATE US FARK PEOPLE?
HEY, MICHELLE.

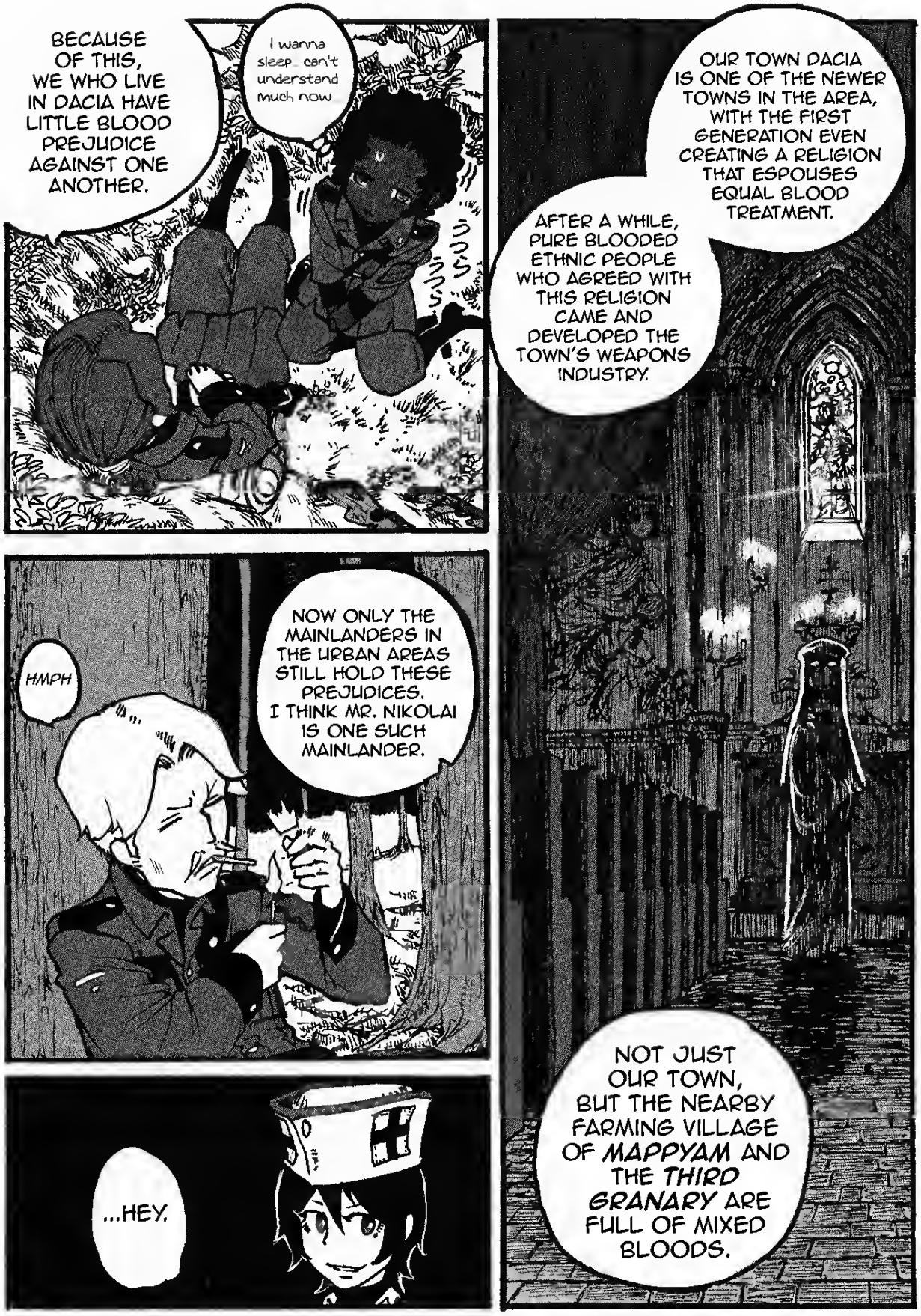
a history lesson.
A LONG TIME AGO, A SINGLE GROUP OF PEOPLE LIVED ON THIS ISLAND, WHO ARE WHAT WE NOW CALL ISLANDERS.
...I GUESS NOW MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO TEACH YOU SOME THINGS.
THEY BUILT SIMPLE WOODEN HOUSES ON THIS LAND, WHICH HAS A WEALTH OF WATER RESOURCES, AND PRODUCED WONDERFUL STEEL AND CERAMICS. AN AFFLUENT NATION THAT WAS WELL KNOWN ON THE MAINLAND.
I'LL NOT WASTE TIME EXPLAINING THE STABILITY WAR, BUT AFTER 1430 THEY INSTALLED A GOVERNMENT AND CREATED A COMMITTEE OF MAINLANDERS TO RULE OVER THIS ISLAND UNTIL NOW.
THEN ABOUT A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, THE MAINLAND'S FIRST COLONIAL POWER STEINBURG INITIATED THE STABILITY WAR AND OCCUPIED THIS ISLAND.

THEN MANY IMMIGRANTS CAME HERE FROM STEINBERG. THE PEOPLE ON THIS ISLAND WHO ARE CALLED *MAINLANDERS* AND *FARKS* WERE THESE IMMIGRANTS.
YOU AND I ARE BOTH DESCENDENTS OF THESE IMMIGRANTS.
FARKS COME FROM *TASTAN*. AS A PEOPLE OF A DIFFERENT RACE FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY, THEIR POSITION IN ALISTRIAN SOCIETY IS LOWER THAN THOSE WHO ARE ETHNICALLY FROM STEINBERG.
...SOME OF THIS IS NOT WRITTEN IN THE OFFICIAL SCHOOL BOOKS, SO I WISH FOR YOU TO LISTEN CLOSELY...

IN OTHER WORDS: A BLOOD CASTE. I KNOW THAT IT'S UN-COMFORTABLE TO HEAR...
...MMMN.
IN OTHER WORDS, BECAUSE OF THE IMMIGRANT MAINLANDERS STANDING PREJUDICE, IT LEAD TO THE NATURAL ORDER OF TODAY.
AND THE ISLANDERS, WHO LOST EVERYTHING IN THE WAR, WERE ALSO TREATED AS LOWER THAN THE MAINLANDERS.
MAINLANDERS WORK IN GOVERNMENT, THE MILITARY, AND LARGE INDUSTRIES. ISLANDERS STICK TO SMALL CRAFTS WHILE FARKS AND SOME ISLANDERS WORK IN AGRICULTURE...
THAT PREJUDICE THEN BECAME THE OCCUPATIONAL HIERARCHY. SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, IT BECAME A TRADITION FOR BLOOD CASTE TO WORK IN CERTAIN JOBS.
TRUTHFULLY, THE BLOOD PREJUDICE OF TODAY IS DIFFERENT FROM BACK THEN.

WEST COAST - NORTH CENTRAL REGIONS
MAINLANDERS
MAINLANDERS MOSTLY LIVE IN THE WEST, ALONG SEA TRADE ROUTES, OR THE UNDEVELOPED NORTH. ISLANDERS AND FARKS LIVE IN THE WARMER AGRICULTURAL AREAS AND FISHERIES OF THE SOUTH.
AND EACH OCCUPATION HAD THEIR OWN CLIMATES. SO PEOPLE, ACCORDING TO THEIR BLOOD CASTES, LIVE IN AREAS WHERE THEIR OCCUPATION THRIVES THE BEST.
SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONS
FARKS AND ISLANDERS
EASTERN REGION CENTRAL AND SOUTH INDEPENDENT AREAS
ISLANDERS
AND THE ISLANDERS WITH MINING SKILLS LIVE ON THE ISLAND'S TALLEST PEAKS, CALLED THE IRON CROWN RANGE, AND HAVE ESTABLISHED A SELF-RULE REGION.
DUE TO THIS ISOLATION, AND THE CONTACT BETWEEN THESE GROUPS BEING LIMITED TO ECONOMIC TRADE, THERE IS AN ATMOSPHERE OF MISUNDERSTANDING, FEAR, DISDAIN AND SUPERIORITY COMPLEXES.
IN OTHER WORDS: DUE TO A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER, THIS SEPARATION HAS PILED UP TO BECOME THE BLOOD PREJUDICE OF OUR TIME. OR SIMPLY, A MUTUAL DISDAIN BETWEEN ETHNIC GROUPS.
(Is she some sort of professor?)

THAT IS THE MIXED BLOOD PROBLEM.
THEY ARE THE PEOPLE WHO, EVEN TODAY, CANNOT BE ACCEPTED BY ANY ETHNIC GROUP.
WELL, I EXPLAINED ENOUGH, BUT THERE IS ONE MORE PROBLEM WITH BLOOD PREJUDICE...
BECAUSE MIXED PEOPLE COULD BE EASILY DIFFERENTIATED BY THEIR HAIR AND EYE COLOR, THEIR BLOOD IS EASILY SHUNNED BY OTHERS.
ESPECIALLY THE FIRST GENERATION, AS THEY ARE CONSTANTLY REJECTED FROM WORK AND MATERIAL SUPPORT. THE PREJUDICE AGAINST THEM IS CRUELER THAN PREJUDICE BETWEEN THE PURE BLOOD ETHNIC GROUPS.
SO THESE MIXED PEOPLE AND THEIR DESCENDANTS SETTLED THE ROUGH WILDERNESS, MAINLY THIS REGION, AND BUILT THEIR OWN TOWNS.


BECAUSE OF THIS, WE WHO LIVE IN DACIA HAVE LITTLE BLOOD PREJUDICE AGAINST ONE ANOTHER.
I wanna sleep_ can't understand much now
OUR TOWN DACIA IS ONE OF THE NEWER TOWNS IN THE AREA, WITH THE FIRST GENERATION EVEN CREATING A RELIGION THAT ESPOUSES EQUAL BLOOD TREATMENT.
AFTER A WHILE, PURE BLOODED ETHNIC PEOPLE WHO AGREED WITH THIS RELIGION CAME AND DEVELOPED THE TOWN'S WEAPONS INDUSTRY.
HMPH
NOW ONLY THE MAINLANDERS IN THE URBAN AREAS STILL HOLD THESE PREJUDICES. I THINK MR. NIKOLAI IS ONE SUCH MAINLANDER.
...HEY.
NOT JUST OUR TOWN, BUT THE NEARBY FARMING VILLAGE OF MAPPYAM AND THE THIRD GRANARY ARE FULL OF MIXED BLOODS.

AS I SAID, I WAS RAISED IN DACIA, SO I DISLIKE THAT METHOD OF THINKING.
CAN YOU SAY YOU DON'T HOLD THOSE SAME PREJUDICES?
AREN'T YOU A MAINLANDER TOO? YOU HAVE THE SAME LOOKS.
YEAH!
...right There is no way she has no biases
AND USING A BATTLE THAT TOOK PLACE SO LONG AGO TO DETERMINE THEIR PLACE IN LIFE IS STRANGE, RIGHT?
THAT'S LIKE USING LINEAGE AFFILIATION TO REPLACE SELF-RESPECT...
Ms Michelle likes to talk a lot huuu...
SFX: *Yawning*

I must have said something important to get her this excited...
NOT AT ALL!
YOYOU MUST BE A PRODIGY! RIGHT?!
Feels studying is hard
MMM-MISS MICHELLE YOU'RE GGREAT! I-I-IAM MIXED BUT I NNNEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT THIS MUCH.
SFX: *Snoring*
SFX: *Stuttering in an*
I SEE.
THEN, ABOUT THE MATTER AT HAND.

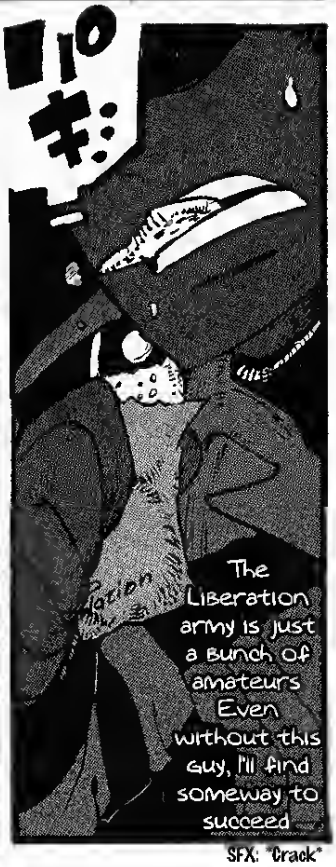
I CAN'T FORCE YOU TO ABANDON YOUR PREJUDICE.
YOU WANT TO HOLD ON TO YOUR BELIEF, FINE. INSULT AND BERATE ME ALL YOU WANT, I'LL JUST STARE AT YOU AND NOT INTERFERE.
IN EXCHANGE, DO SOME WORK FOR THIS OPERATION.
OBEY MY ORDERS AND DISPLAY SOME SENSE OF DUTY. IF THE OPERATION FAILS, YOU WON'T GET ANY PAYMENT.

ANYWAY, YOU'RE RIGHT. I DON'T BELIEVE IN WORKING BEFORE GETTING PAID, BUT UNLIKE THESE AMATEURS, I AM A PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER.
DON'T JUST BE ALL TALK, BLACK CAT.
IF YOU WANT TO COMMAND ME, THEN PLEASE ACT THE PART OF AN OFFICER.
YOU ORDER OR COMMAND ANY SUPPORT, THEN I'LL DO AS YOU'VE REQUESTED. BUT HOW YOU GIVE THAT ORDER... THAT WILL BE YOUR PROBLEM.

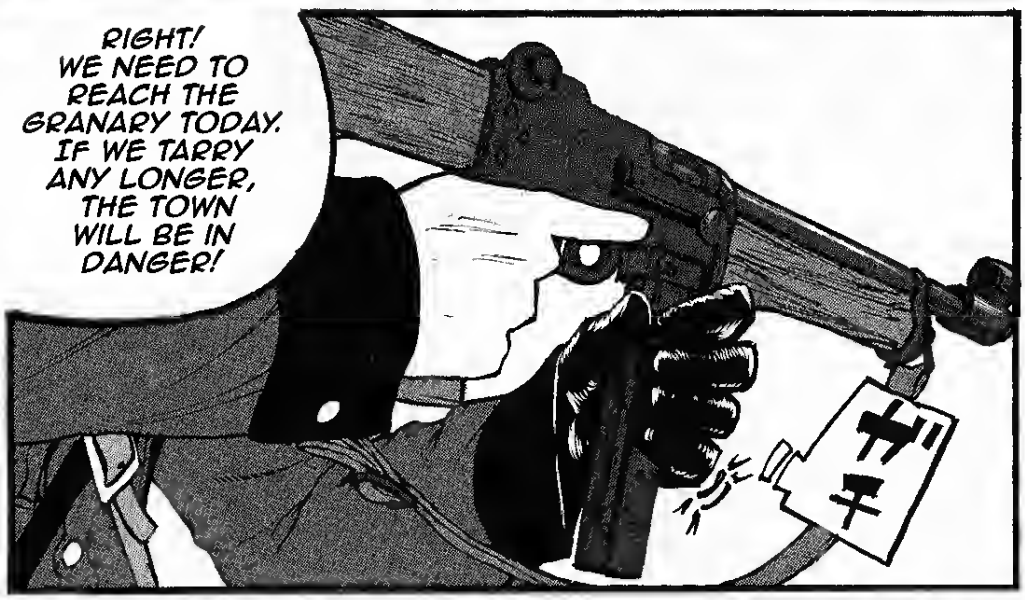
SFX: "Ri"

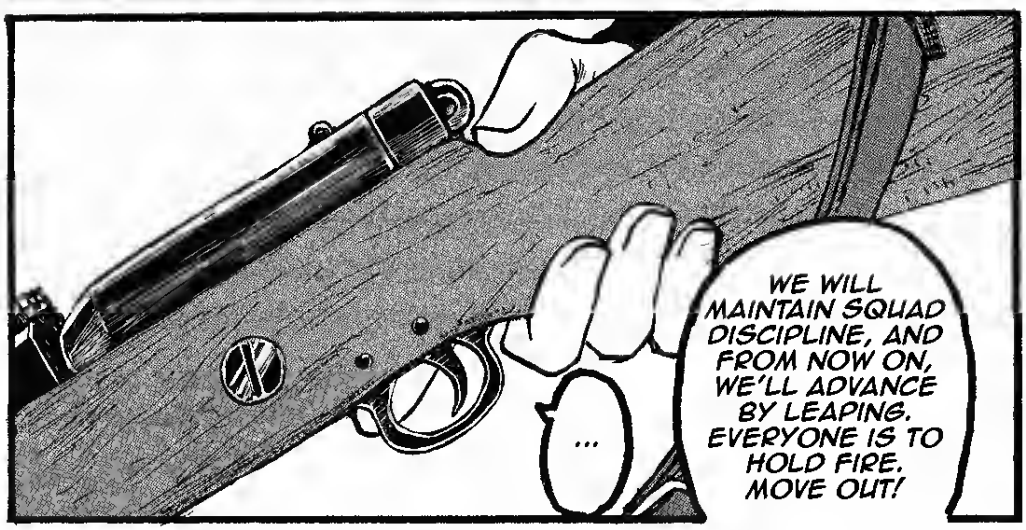
...Speaking of which, a lot of the recruits had problems before the operation started, why am I leading this bunch of problem characters?
あ〜〜〜……

SFX: "Sigh"



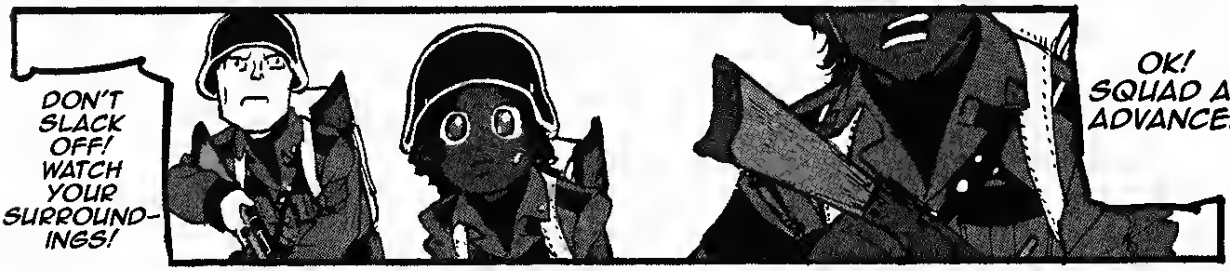
SFX: "Crack"

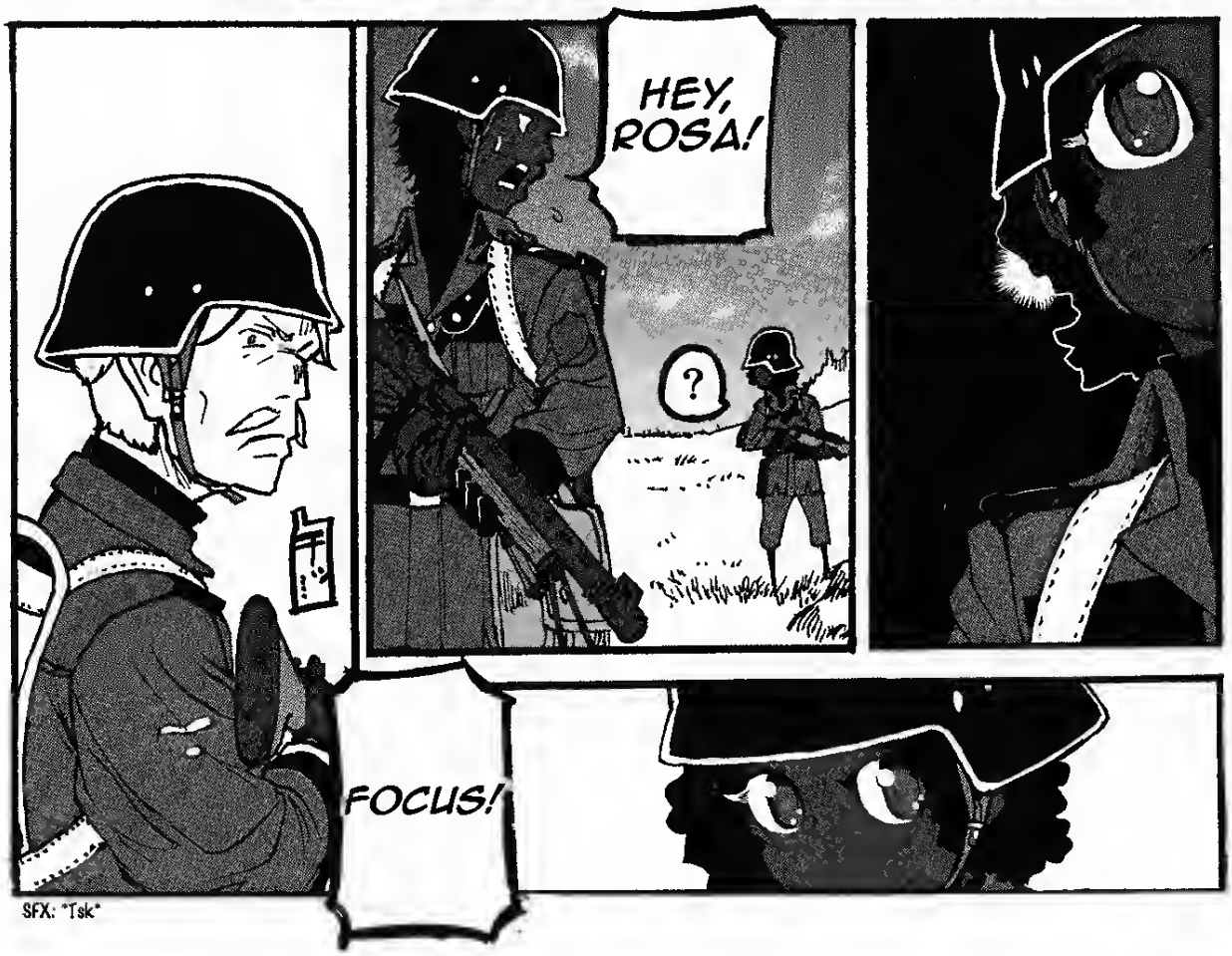




But I was the one who picked them...

Y-Y-YES!
RUN!
COME ON, MICHELLE!


DON'T SLACK OFF! WATCH YOUR SURROUND-INGS!
OK! SQUAD A, ADVANCE!


HEY, ROSA!
?
FOCUS!
SFX: *Tsk*

...But if it's nothing, Mr. Nikolai will blame me. So it's better to stay quiet...
YOU ALL RIGHT?
YES!
...But I did hear something...
She seems better today
SFX: *Panting*
...!
ALL STOP!

WE'VE ARRIVED. THIS IS THE THIRD GRAIN SILO AREA.
DON'T SHOW YOUR FORM TO THE ENEMY. AND BE MINDFUL OF THE EDGE.

ROSA.
Until nightfall, we'll scout the area, then attack.
We'll attack at night to make up for our lack of numbers.
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO BE A SNIPER, RIGHT?
SCOUTING THE ENEMY IS ONE OF THE BASICS OF A SNIPER'S JOB.
I'VE TAUGHT YOU HOW, SO GO SCOUT THE AREA.